DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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July 6, 1981

To: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 81-28

SHARE-OF-COST DETERMINATIONS FOR MFBUs WHICH INCLUDE A PERSON IN LONG-TERM CARE (LITC)

AB 251, which contains several major Medi-Cal program changes, some of which impact eligibility and share-of-cost determinations, has been signed by the Governor and therefore becomes law immediately. We are currently preparing for distribution an All County Welfare Directors Letter explaining all of the Medi-Cal provisions contained in AB 251.

One of the eligibility changes, which is effective July 1, 1981, is that for all MFBUs which include a person in LTC, the income deductions used to determine net income (other than allocations, health insurance premiums and the ABD-MN special income deduction) must be added back into the total share-of-cost amount.

Since the savings to be derived from this change are reflected in the 1981/82 Budget, immediate implementation is necessary. This letter provides you the authorization and details necessary for implementation.

Implementation Schedule

- a. Intake: The provisions of this letter must be applied to all cases, which include an LTC person, as soon as possible but no later than any approval action occurring on or after August 1981. The provisions should only be applied to share-of-cost determinations for July and continuing months of eligibility.
- b. Continuing: Although we realize eligibility staff have only recently completed implementation of the Title II increases for these cases, we were unable to anticipate this new change. Continuing cases must be converted as quickly as possible with the change reflected in all cases by October 1981 month of eligibility. No retroactive computations are required.

Authorization

Attached (Attachment I) is a copy of the regulation we are filing on an emergency basis to implement this change. Since the regulation will not be effective by July 1, 1981, we will be operating directly from the statute in the interim. The Notice of Action advising persons of their increased share of cost should cite as the authority for the action: "Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14005.9 as amended by AB 251, Chapter 102, Statutes of 1981". Since this adverse action is due to a change in state law, affected persons will not be entitled to a state

hearing. We have prepared the attached stuffer (Attachment II) to be included with the Notices of Action. We will send each county a supply shortly. Counties also have the option of creating their own supplemental notice.

It should be noted that the explanation on the Notice of Action for the increased share of cost should also include a statement that the change is required by a change in state law. Suggested wording is included as Attachment III.

Share-of-Cost Computation

Until such time as we can revise the MC 176M to incorporate this change, column 3, line 18, underpayment adjustment can be modified to add the income deductions to the share of cost. If an individual case is receiving an underpayment adjustment, the county use box can be used to add in the income deductions. The deductions to be added back into the share of cost are all of the deductions listed in column I and/or II. Normally this will be only the the deductions deduction. Examples of each method are included as Attachment IV.

The reason that this change requires a two-step process, first allowing the income deductions, then adding the amounts back in to the final share of cost, is to settle a long standing federal compliance issue. The federal Medicaia regulations are written in such a fashion as to require this two step process, even though for states, like California, which have a Medically Needy program, the process is moot.

Anticipated Fiscal Impact

Once this change is fully implemented the total annual program savings are estimated to be \$16,392,000 (\$8,196,000 General Fund).

Administrative Cost Funding

The Department_will determine the adequacy of administrative funds appropriated for AB 251 implementation in the FY 1981/82 Budget, and, if necessary, seek additional funding from the Legislature.

If you have any questions regarding this letter contact your Medi-Cal Program Consultant.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Madalyn M. Martinez, Chief Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Attachments

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants
Prepaid Health Plans Branch
Expiration Date: January 31, 1982

50653. Determination of Share of Cost. (a) The share of cost covers a one . month period and is determined as follows:

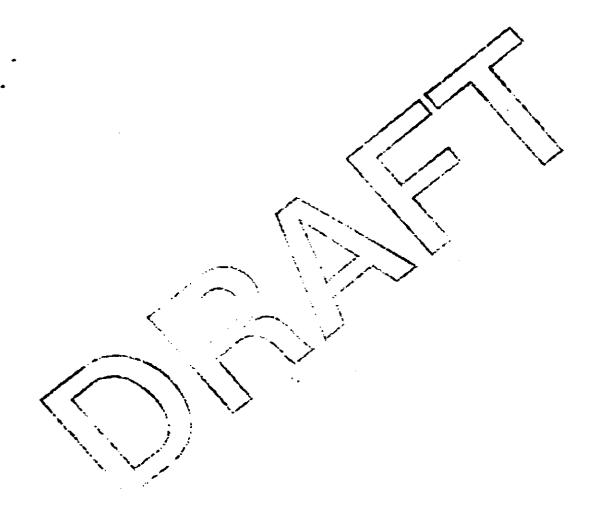
- (1) For MFBUs which do not include a person in LTC:
- (A) (4) Determine the net nonexempt income available to the members of the MFBU.
- (B) (2)- Round the total net nonexempt income determined in (A) (4) to the nearest dollar, with amounts ending in 50 cents or more rounded to the next highest dollar.
- (C)-(3) Determine the appropriate maintenance need for the MESU in accordance with Section 506043.
- (D) (4) Subtract the maintenance need from the rounded net nonexempt income. The remainder, if any, is the share of cost.
- 2) For MFBUs which include a person in LTC
- Determine the net nonexempt income available to the MFBU.
- (B) Round the total net nonexempt income determined in (4) to the nearest dollar, with amounts ending in 50 cents or more rounded to the next higher dollar.
- (C) Determine the appropriate maintenance need in accordance with Section 50601.
- (D) Subtract the amount determined in (C) from the amount determined in (B).
- (D) Add to the amount determined in (D) any amounts previously deducted in accordance with Sections 50547 through 50554. This amount, if any, is the share of cost.
- (b) The share of cost shall be determined:
- (1) At the time of application, reapplication or restoration.

50653 - 2

(2) When there is a change in income, family composition or any other factor which affects the share of cost.

-Note: Authority cited: Sections 10725 and 14124.5, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Reference: Section 14005.9, Welfare and Institutions Code.



MEDI-CAL AVISO DE ACCION CAMBIO EN PARTE DEL COSTO PARA PERSONAS EN CUIDADO A LARGO PLAZO

En el reverso de este Aviso, se le comunica que Ud. tiene derecho a una audiencia estatal. Esta información ya no es correcta debido a que la Legislatura recientemente rectificó la ley del Estado en el sentido que las AUDIENCIAS ESTATALES NO SERAN DISPONIBLES CUANDO LAS PARTES DEL COSTO SON INCREMENTADAS POR LEY ESTATAL. Por lo tanto, si la única razón para solicitar una audiencia estatal se refiere al cambio en su parte del costo debido a la eliminación de sus \$20 deducidos de sus ingresos, entonces Ud. no tiene derecho a una audiencia estatal. Este cambio se basa en el Código de Bienestar e Instituciones, Sección 10950.

Si por alguna otra razón, Ud. cree que el condado incorrectamente determinó su parte del costo, Ud. puede solicitar una audiencia estatal dentro de los 90 días de la fecha efectiva de la acción. Usted puede recibir ayuda pendiente de pago si Ud. solicita una audiencia dentro de los 10 días de la fecha de este Aviso de Acción.

MEDI-CAL NOTICE OF ACTION CHANGE IN SHARE OF COST FOR PERSONS IN LONG-TERM CARE

On the back of this Notice, you are told that you have a right to a state hearing. This information is no longer correct because the Legislature recently amended the state law so that STATE HEARINGS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE WHEN SHARES OF COST ARE INCREASED BY STATE LAW. Therefore, if the only reason for requesting a state hearing concerns the change in your share of cost due to the elimination of your \$20 income deduction, you are not entitled to a state hearing. This change is based on Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 10950.

If for some other reason you believe the county incorrectly determined your share of cost, you may request a state hearing within 90 days of the effective date of the action. You may receive aid paid pending if you request a hearing within 10 days of the date of this Notice of Action.

Attachment III

SUGGESTED NOTICE OF ACTION WORDING

Your share of cost has been changed to \$ per month, beginning because a recent change in state law has decreased the amount of your income that you get to keep each month for your personal needs. This means more of your income must be used to pay for your medical care.

TATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY HARE OF COST DETERMINATION—MN AND MI PERSONS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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